

MTL, BIA, and MTE present the Special General Council on Forestry

Francisco Alegria
Menominee Nation News

Saturday March 26, 2005 a Special General Council Meeting was held to discuss Menominee Forestry issues. The meeting was hosted at the Menominee Casino in both the Ada Deer and the Ernest "Blackhawk" Neconish rooms. This was a joint meeting between the Menominee Tribal Legislature, the Menominee Tribal Enterprise Board of Directors and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The first order of business was roll call for both boards. The Menominee Tribal Legislature had 100% attendance. Present for M.T.L. was Chairman Michael Chapman, Vice Chairperson Annmarie Johnson, Tribal Secretary Theodore Warrington, Gary Besaw, Laurie Boivin, Laurie Reiter, Kenneth Fish, Stephanie Awonohopay and Karen Washinawatok. The Menominee Tribal Enterprise Board of Directors had one member absent, Jerrilyn Grignon. The MTE Board of Directors present were: Chairman, Joseph Besaw Sr., Vice Chair Ben Kaquatosh, Secretary, Melinda Cook, Linda Caldwell, Arthur Chapman, Myron Grignon Sr.,

See **GENERAL COUNCIL** pg.5

The sweet gift of maple sugar



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Above-Gerald 'Jerry' Sanapaw explained to the M.T.S. students the steps on how to make maple sugar (Pictured here is step 3 of the process which is boiling the sap.)

Inset-The children get a chance to taste the maple sugar.



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How sweet it is.....Maple sugar that is. The Menominee Tribal School has set up camp and requested some help running the camp during school hours. The request was answered by;

- Marci Hawpetoss
- Dave Oshkosh
- Gerald 'Jerry' Sanapaw

- Greg Turney
- Gerald Sanapaw Jr.
- Tony Sanapaw

Throughout the camp these individuals 'held down the fort' while the students were away getting their education.

The maple sugar camp began in the traditional Menominee way, and that's with a prayer of thanks. This year the prayer was given by Mr.

Dave 'Nahwahquaw' Grignon. Nahwahquaw started the camp with a Menominee prayer, giving thanks for the gift of maple sugar. He told a story of how Menominee's received maple sugar. This story was re-told by Miss Lachapelle's 3rd grade class to the camp workers.

See **SUGAR CAMP** pg.15

Sacred Eagle Takes Flight Once Again



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On Friday, March 25, 2005 an eagle was released back into the wild. The eagle had led poisoning and was found 4 months earlier by Robert 'Butch' Summers.



Community	2-8, 13
Comments	4
Court Proceedings	9
Sports	10-11
Happy Ads	12
Education	15-22
MISD Minutes	16
Health	23

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General Council continued from pg.1

Davey Jean Peters, Douglas Cox Sr, Jackie Pubanz, Louis Washinawatok Jr. Jim Kaquatosh, Edwin Wilber Sr. and Bernard Kaquatosh. Also in attendance were M.T.E.'s Officers; Interim President/Purchasing Manager, Tom Walenski, Marketing Specialist Bill Schmidt, M.I.S. Manager, Mike Preiwi, Finance Manager, Jim Wacker, Plant Manager, Al Quinney, Human Resource Department, Dan Leonard, In-house Attorney, Rebecca Loudbear, Sales, James Kaquatosh and Forest Manager, Marshal Pecore. The B.I.A. Forester, David Congos, was there to represent the B.I.A.

The Menominee Prayer was said by Menominee Tribal Legislator, Mr. Theodore Warrington. Following the Menominee Prayer Chairman, Michael Chapman asked for volunteers to be the tellers for the day. Lynette Miller and Leon Waukau served as the tellers for the meeting. The first votes cast of the meeting were to decide who would be the Chairman of the General Council. Three people were nominated, Mr. Pershing Frechette, Mr. Bruce Wilber, Sr. and Mr. Eugene Caldwell. Mr. Frechette carried 20 votes, Mr. Wilber had 18 and Mr. Caldwell was elected Chairman with 48 votes.

Chairman for the meeting, Mr. Eugene Caldwell began by saying, "Thank you my fellow Menominees", "We need to appoint a Sergeant at Arms, any volunteers?" The "Sergeant at Arms" were Mr. Ed Waubanasum and Mr. Bill Cox. Their duty was to keep order during the meeting.

They say everything happens for a reason, before starting on item number three, Back Log, Mr. Caldwell said, "There is something that I want to say something to set the tone of the entire meeting, the relatives of Chief Oshkosh gave me their permission to read this. This is a quote from Chief Oshkosh, "Start in the west, make your circle by taking only the sick and the mature ones, yet keep in mind by taking care of the other creatures and leaving it as you first came as so when you make your circle to the point of start, then we will again have another stand ready for you on your next circle. For it is truly in this circle you are taking care of her, Mother Earth, for it is true that she will always be there to take care of you."

Mr. Besaw, Chairman of the M.T.E. Board of Directors, presented the next item on the agenda the Back Log. He explained, "The best way to say it is to call it "carry over." We have certain prescriptions in the forest that we have to cut and we try to get in these areas every fifteen years, if they don't get in these areas then they become Back Log."

On this particular issue, members of the audience asked some very important questions and asked for answers in responsibility of the Back Log.

Items of the agenda and important issues were juggled about, with emotions running high throughout the entire meeting. Chairman Caldwell explained, "Some of these issues overlap." There were so many questions by the Menominee people. The meeting was taken to heart, by the many Menominee who spoke out.

There was an abundance of questions, and people wanted answers, one main question was about the Prescriptions. A forest Prescription is the plan in which the logging contractors cut for the year. A proposed cut of timber is mapped out. The prescription has to be signed and approved by the B.I.A. Forester. The B.I.A. Forester signs the prescription if it is in accordance with the Forest Management Plan. This was a huge issue. Questions like "Why aren't the prescriptions signed off yet?" or "how come M.T.E. is not working on them?" Joe Besaw, Chairman of the M.T.E. Board of Directors argued, "The prescriptions are finished and they were handed in to the B.I.A., and now it's up to the B.I.A. Forester, Dave Congos to sign them." After the prescriptions are signed the Loggers will be able to go back to work. Another point of concern was, "will the issue of prescriptions be solved before the end of May? So the Loggers can go back to work as soon as possible." Marshall Pecore also spoke

to the Back Log issue, explaining a graphic called the "BACKLOG HARVESTING PLAN" that was part of a handout addressing the forest backlog.

One question by a concerned gentleman in the audience was, "I thought the Legislature was the Supreme Law of the Land?" and "Who is the boss?" Michael Chapman, Chairman of the Menominee Legislature answered, "In respect to the B.I.A. in their roll, their presence on the Reservation, the Tribe is entering into a contract with the B.I. A. that under the Indian Self Determination and Education Act, 638, we are contracting for forest management and sub contracting for M.T.E., so in that respect, they are on the Reservation to monitor that contract and the Legislature ultimately has responsibility over that contract."

During Excess Profits, item number four on the agenda, many questions rose in the subject of accountability. The demand was made by one audience member, "I want to see accountability." There were many good questions at this important meeting.

Item number five was the Forest Management Plan. This was a long discussion and a lot of serious questions were raised. A special public announcement was then made. There will be a "Forest Management Plan Tentative Listening Session." The schedule includes the communities of Neopit, Keshena, South Branch, Zoar, Middle Village, Milwaukee and Chicago. Starting in May 2005 on Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. there will be three listening sessions in each community. One Special General Council will be held before the end of September.

The Special General Council Meeting was recessed. The meeting will be continued because there are still items on the agenda that have not been covered. The meeting will take place again on April 23, 2005 at the same location, the Menominee Casino in Keshena. Keep an eye out for any possible changes of the set date. Lunch will be served at noon and Menominee Tribal attendance is encouraged.

A Motion

Evelyn Leroy: I move that Marshall Pecore be removed as Forest Manager because of these communication things that are going on between him and the other members that work up in the Administration area, and also with how does the forester do the backlog.

Rose Goodwill: I second the Motion.

Chairman: All those in favor of the Motion raise your hand. Opposed. The Motion carried: 52 for, 18 Opposed, and 8 Abstentions

A Motion

Arthur Chapman: I move to recess this meeting to a time and date to be determined.

Rita Keshena: I second the Motion.

Amendment to set the date for Saturday, April 23, and the time is set for 9 A.M. at the Casino.

Amendment carried: 22 in favor, 13 opposed.

Chairman: All those in favor of the Motion raise your hand. Opposed. The Motion is carried: 39 in favor and 13 opposed.

An Appointment

Lynette Miller and Leon Waukau were appointed as Tellers for Meeting.

Edmund Waubanasum and William Cox, III, were appointed as Sergeant-At-Arms for the Meeting.

A Nomination

Frieda Bergeon nominated Eugene Caldwell to chair this Meeting.

Bruce Wilber, Sr., was nominated.

Pershing "Sport" Frechette was nominated.

Frieda Bergeon nominated James Horton- not present.

Delores Small Yazzier moved that nominations cease.

Chairman Chapman closed nominations. By show of hands:

Pershing "Sport" Frechette received 20 votes.

Bruce Wilber, Sr., received 18 votes.

Eugene Caldwell received 48 votes. Chairman Chapman declared Eugene Caldwell Chairman for the meeting.

Note that the motions made are advisory, contingent on concurrence by the Menominee Tribal Legislature within 30 days.

Sugar Camp continued from front page

The story goes like this:

'One day Manabus was under a maple tree. Suddenly it began to rain maple syrup -not sap- right on top of him. Manabus got a birch bark tray and held it out to catch the syrup. He said to himself: "This is too easy for the Indians." So he threw the syrup away and decided that before they could have the syrup, the Indians would have to give a feast, offer tobacco, speak to Maec Awatok (The Creator) and put out some birch bark trays.

Nohkomaeh the Grandmother of Manabus, showed him how to insert a small piece of wood in to each maple tree so the sap could run down into the vessels beneath. When Manabus tested it, it was thick and sweet. He told his grandmother it would never do to give the Indians the syrup without making them work for it.

He climbed to the top of one of the maples, scattered rain over all the trees, dissolving the sugar as it flowed into the birch bark vessels. Now the Indians have to cut wood, make vessels, collect the sap and boil it for a long time. This keeps them from being idle for too long a time.'

All of the classes visited the maple camp to help out the workers. Each class did taste testing, 5th grade and up helped haul buckets, drill sap holes into trees, and shovel snow. The classes were very helpful.

Elder Gerald 'Jerry' Sanapaw used his knowledge about maple sugar to show the youth how to make maple sugar candies. He also shared many stories about when he used to spend time working with his family at maple sugar camps. Jerry explained to the children that maple sugar is not so easy to find and that when you do find it is a gift, "This stuff is so precious and hard to get." "It is so precious that we use all of it. We do not leave any of it behind or unused. If my mother was alive she would not let us leave any of it."

Jerry added, "There is an updated process on how to make maple candy and sugar, but I am not to familiar with that process. This way here is the old time way that my mother and father taught me. This maple camp here is for the students and to keep them aware that the maple is native."

When each class from the Menominee Tribal School visited the camp they were taking through a small tour. But before they could taste test or anything they were asked to put down some tobacco to give thanks to the creator for the wonderful gift of maple sugar. On the small tour of the camp they were able to taste how the sap tastes straight from the tree and how it tastes after being boiled down after syrup and made into candies. Well of course the children's favorite part of the tour was tasting the maple sugar after its formed into maple candy.

The process of the Maple candy is first started off by a Tobacco offering. 2nd the trees are tapped for the maple sap. 3rd they boil the sap. 4th They make taffy by rolling the boiled down sap into the snow. and Finally 5th the taffy is shaped and hardened into the maple candy.

Maple candy tastes awesome, but do you know why they even started making maple candy? Well in the early 1900's or late 1800's is when kettles and pots were given to the Menominee people and then from there they made maple candy. The maple candy was originally made

because the candy lasts for long periods of time and can be stored away in the off season. That's why we have the hard maple candy. When the maple sugar is hard its easier to move around.

Sugar camp worker, Marci Hawpetoss explained a little bit about the camp, "Last Friday we got our first batch of syrup. Today we boiled down the syrup to make maple candy. This maple sugar camp is for the kids to experience what our ancestors did. The kids come up here and help haul wood, tap trees, they will be able to take some maple candy home to their families when it is finished."

Marci finished, "This is the kid's camp, we were just asked to help."